Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
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Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada
Canada

P.N.E.U. NOTES.

Edited by Miss FRANCES BLOGG, *Sec.*, 28, *Victoria Street, S.W.*

To whom Hon. Local Secs. are requested to send reports of all matters of interest connected with their branches, also 30 *copies of any prospectuses or other papers they may print.*

NEW BRANCHES.

The Executive Committee has been approached with a view to starting Branches in the following places:—

HARROW.
BRADFORD.
MANCHESTER.
CHICHESTER.
EALING.
COLCHESTER.—Hon. Sec., *pro tem.*, Mrs. Powell, Great Bentley Vicarage.
NOTTINGHAM.
BLACKHEATH.
CROYDON.
STREATHAM.
WEST HAMPSTEAD.—Hon. Sec., Miss Fothergill, 109, Abbey Road, N.W.
BECKENHAM.
BOLTON.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Barnes, Limefield, Farnworth.
CARLISLE.
BRUSSELS.

Readers of the *Parents' Review* living in these districts, or having friends there, are asked to communicate with Miss Blogg.

The Library Committee beg to acknowledge, with many thanks, the gift of the following book by the author:—

"How Plants Live and Work." Eleanor Hughes-Gibb.

The following books, which are now out of print, have been purchased for the Library:—

"Practical Education" (3 vols.), Maria Edgeworth; "The Philosophy of Education," T. Tate; "Home Education," Isaac Taylor; "The Good Voices," Rev. E. A. Abbott, M.A.

BELGRAVIA.—On Tuesday, December 15th, a meeting was held (by kind permission of Mrs. Guy Pym) at 35, Cranley Gardens, and Miss Helen Webb, M.B., gave an address on "Neurotic Children." The subject was felt to be a most interesting one, and a large audience was present. Miss Webb divided Neurotic Children into two classes,—those who by nature are of a safe or protected type, and a more dangerous unprotected type. She said that about children of the first kind parents need not feel anxious. They will not work beyond a certain point even if

pressure is put on them, and in their childhood they will probably be considered very dull; but when the right chord in their nature is touched, they will at once wake up and probably do splendid work. Children of the second type are rightly a cause of anxiety: they must be kept back in their school work, and on no account pressed. They must be given room and leisure to grow and develop. They need training rather than instructing, and their surroundings must be so arranged that calmness and self-control may be given to their nature. Miss Webb gave many useful hints as to the training needful to these children. The width of the subject must, however, have left on the mind of the audience a strong desire for further teaching and light on this important subject.

On Monday, January 18th, the Hon. and Rev. Canon E. Lyttelton gave an address on "Parents and Sons," at 126, Sloane Street (by the kindness of Mrs. Mackenzie), Roderick D. Mackenzie in the chair. On Wednesday, February 17th, Miss Mason (Founder of the Union) has kindly consented to give a lecture on "The *Raison d'être* of the P.N.E.U. and its Aims." The lecture will be given (by the kindness of Mrs. Tritton) at 36, Queen's Gate Gardens, S.W. Classes are being held for children in French (Gouin), Singing (Tonic Sol-Fa), Theory of Music and Singing, and Dancing. Further particulars may be had from the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Cockburn, 39, Elvaston Place, S.W.

HYDE PARK AND BAYSWATER.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Franklin, 9, Pembridge Gardens (at home Thursday mornings). February 15th, W. K. Hill, Esq., B.A. (author of "Modern Ideals in Education," *Contemporary Review*, October, 1896), will lecture on "Parental Responsibility for the Failure of Modern Education," at 5.30, at 86, Westbourne Terrace (by the kindness of Mrs. Hall). Tea and coffee at 5 o'clock. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance at this lecture. Members are reminded that their subscription is now due, and should be sent to the Hon. Sec. Names for the Reading Circle must be sent in at once.

HAMPSTEAD.—On January 20th Dr. Downes, of Eastbourne, gave an address on "Backward Children." The next meeting will be on February 10th, at 74, Fitzjohn's Avenue, by the kindness of Dr. Pidcock. Mr. Simmons, Head Master of University College Preparatory School, is to read a paper on "The Mode of Teaching Latin and Greek." An important meeting of the committee was held to take action upon the proposed division of this large branch. As an outcome of the meeting a separate St. John's Wood branch has been formed, of which Miss Fothergill, 109, Abbey Road, N.W., has kindly consented to act as Secretary. All members who have not yet done so, will greatly help the two Hon. Secs., by sending in their names to the Secretary of that branch to which they wish in future to belong. The Christmas holiday excursions to the National Gallery, Natural History Museum, and Westminster Abbey, were held on January 5th, 14th, 19th. The attendance of children was small.

FINCHLEY.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Ramsay Wilson, Longcroft, North Finchley. Three lectures have been given since the beginning of this session:—On October 15th, by Professor Sully, "Some Aspects of Child Study"; November 5th, by Miss E. P. Hughes, on "The Moral Govern-

ment of Children"; December 8th, Hastings Gilford, Esq., M.D., on "The Study of the Psychic Peculiarities of Childhood." Miss Hughes' lecture was especially appreciated, the subject being one of great practical interest to parents. The date of next lecture has not yet been fixed, but our President (Dr. McClure) has kindly consented to address the Branch some time in February.

RICHMOND AND KEW.—The Richmond and Kew Branch held their January meeting on the 12th, at Channing Hall, Richmond (by kind permission of Miss Bailey). Miss Lawrence came from Brighton to address the meeting on "The Educational Value of Games." Miss Lawrence distinguished exercise from games. "Exercise," she said, "was only so much individual action, but games enjoined good temper, fairness, justice, and obedience to law in the abstract." A discussion afterwards took place, in which Mr. Palliser, who presided, took part, as did also Mrs. Banks, Dr. Anderson, and Dr. G. E. Shuttleworth, all of whom expressed their accordance in Miss Lawrence's views as to the desirability of games forming a necessary part of school life. It was decided that during the Easter Holidays, children should be conducted by a competent instructor to Kew Gardens, Hampton Court, and other places of interest in the neighbourhood, including a historical trip up the river. The Dowager Countess Russell has kindly consented to become President of the Branch.

CLAPHAM.—The January meeting was held at Elm House, Clapham Common (by kind invitation of Mrs. Penfold), on Wednesday, the 20th, when Dr. Low read a paper on "The Accidents of Childhood," illustrated by the Röntgen Rays and lantern slides. The rector of Clapham took the chair.

WIMBLEDON.—A meeting was held on December 19th at 17, Hill Side (by kind permission of Mrs. Ingram Walker). Fräulein Gœdhart gave a very interesting exposition of the Curwen System of teaching music, which could not but have convinced her audience of the unquestionable excellencies of the system, while the intelligent performances of some of her little pupils still more clearly demonstrated its educational value. Mrs. Spencer Curwen was in the chair. During the Christmas holidays Mr. Cooke gave a short course of "Nature" lessons to children from five to nine years of age. Two courses of lessons in Carpentry have been arranged, a senior class for boys from ten to sixteen years old, and a junior class for boys from six to ten years old.

READING.—A meeting of the committee was held on Saturday, December 12th, at the High School, by kind permission of Miss Haigh. A letter was read from Mr. W. Salmon, the honorary secretary, tendering his resignation. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Salmon for his valuable services to the Branch, and Mr. T. H. Penson, Ascham House School, was elected to fill the vacancy. Suggestions were made as to the programme for 1897. It was resolved to hold six meetings during the year, three of which, in consequence of the large attendances, are to be held in a public hall. Lectures have already been promised by Mr. Halford, Mr. J. Mackinder, M.A., Principal of the University Extension College, Reading; by Mdle. Duriaux and by Mrs. Steinthal.

BIRKENHEAD.—On December 16th, at St. Aidan's College, the Rev. William Watson gave a most earnest and helpful lecture on "The Religious Education of Children." Unfortunately, owing to the weather and the date being so near to Christmas, the attendance was small, not more than 25 members being present. The lecture was followed by discussion. On December 30th Miss Hoffman lectured to children on "Natural History"; this lecture was much appreciated by the young folk. On January 6th an expedition, under the charge of two or three ladies, was made to the Permanent Gallery of Pictures in Liverpool, where Mrs. Hughes delighted the children by her interesting talks on the different pictures and models. On January 11th and 13th two brush drawing lessons were given to members' children by Miss Johnston at 18, Devonshire Road.

SHEFFIELD.—On December 10th (by the kind invitation of Mrs. W. P. Turnbull), a meeting was held at "Mount View," when Mrs. Hallowes, of Cliffe College, Curbar, gave an address on "The Rights of Children." Owing to the wet weather the meeting was not a very large one, but the address was greatly appreciated by those present, and provoked a long and interesting discussion. The annual meeting was held on January 28th, when Mr. A. Philip, of Birmingham, spoke on "The Limitations of the Responsibility of Parental Authority."

EASTBOURNE.—A meeting was held at Wairgrave House, Blackwater Road, by kind invitation of Mrs. Matheson, on the 18th of January, when Mrs. Franklin, Hon. Org. Sec., gave an address on "How the Parents' Union helps its members." Miss Mason has promised to address the Branch in February, and Miss Hughes, of the Teachers' Training College, Cambridge, in March.

HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS.—On Wednesday, February 3rd, at 3 o'clock, at 7, Warrior Square (by kind permission of Mrs. A. Scarlyn Wilson), an address will be given by the Rev. G. E. Frewer, M.A., on "The Nurture and Admonition of the Lord." Chairman, Dr. A. Scarlyn Wilson.

FOLKESTONE.—The February lecture will be given by the Head Master of Dover College, on "The Sphere of Home Influence in Education," and, in March, Miss Chudleigh, Head Mistress of the Kent College for Girls, will address the Branch.

SOUTHPORT.—On the evening of Tuesday, December 8th (by the kind permission of Lady Wheler), Miss S. F. Stead gave a paper, illustrated by lantern slides, entitled, "A Lesson in Geography to Children of all ages." The attendance was good, and the lesson keenly appreciated by the parents and friends of education present. Much interest continues to be felt on the subject of teaching geography to children by those who were present, as well as by those who have heard of the lectures.

LEEDS.—January 12th, Professor L C. Miall gave an address on "Home Occupations of Children," and, on December 15th, Canon Bullock gave an address on "A Religious Basis essential in the Education of the Young." The Secretary hopes she will shortly obtain both papers for publication in the *Review*. In February, Mdlle. H. E. Duriaux will give a lecture on "Language Teaching."

SCARBOROUGH.—The annual meeting of this Branch, P.N.E.U., was held on December 3rd, at the Vicarage, by the kind invitation of the

Bishop of Hull and Mrs. Blunt. After the reading of the minutes, the officers were elected, and a Children's Natural History Club formed. The Bishop then gave a most interesting address on "Children's Prayers." The substance of the address we hope may at some future time be published; it was full of useful suggestions for parents. *Natural History Club*:—The Club has been taken up with great enthusiasm, and has a membership of about seventy. Marine subjects will be studied until Easter; in February and March there will be excursions, and in April an exhibition of sea-weeds, shells, and sea-water aquariums.

EDINBURGH BRANCH.—The meeting on December 8th was, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Ralph Dundas, held at 28, Drumsheugh Gardens, under the auspices of the Edinburgh Branch of the "Scottish Mothers' Union." Mrs. Mirrlees, Redlands, Glasgow, read a most helpful paper on "The Need of Self-discipline for Mothers." She dwelt first on the extreme importance of a mother's personality: no other influence can take its place. Theorists, who are choked with other people's opinions, often fail in training children because they abdicate their own personality. We must use all possible means for self-culture. Three obvious qualities are needed,—Love, Justice, Patience. We must test our love by God's love. It is a giving love, a discriminating love, a love that corrects. We must give ourselves to our children in all our freshness and culture,—not merely the fag ends of our life,—but let us see to it that our giving does not tend to selfishness. God's love takes pains,—so must ours. Are we not all apt, because it gives us less trouble, to do for our children what it would be best for them to learn to do for themselves? Justice, described as the art of measuring, is not easy. Some children seem to have more affinity with us than others: we understand them better. All circumstances must be taken into account in judging of faults: the same action may be more wrong in one child than in another. Patience must be the atmosphere of our life if we are to have it always at command. There are many counterfeits of patience—indifference, weak concessions, etc. This life of self-discipline is no less important for our children than for ourselves. We must train them early in habits of self-control if they are to be fit for the work of life. Each stage of life has its own lessons, and no one can learn in maturity what should have been learned in childhood. There was a good audience, and some interesting discussion at the close. Mrs. Fletcher, of Saltrenn, presided. The Brush-Drawing and Cardboard Slöyd Classes resumed work on Saturday, 9th January.

ST. JOHN'S WOOD.—A meeting was held on Friday, January 8th, at the house of Mr. Perrin, 8, Carlton Hill, N.W., when a resolution was put and carried, that the Hampstead and St. John's Wood Branch of the P.N.E.U. should be divided into two, to be known as the Hampstead Branch and the St. John's Wood Branch respectively. The following members were elected to act as Committee of the St. John's Wood Branch:—Mr. and Mrs. Perrin, Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Mullins, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. White Wallis, Mrs. Yeoman; Miss Fothergill, of 109, Abbey Road, N.W., being appointed Hon. Sec. The inaugural meeting of the new branch will be held on February 24th, at 8 p.m., when the address will be given by Mrs. Steinthal, subject—"What is the Parents' National Educational Union?"

THE

PARENTS' REVIEW

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

OF HOME-TRAINING AND CULTURE.

"Education is an atmosphere, a discipline, a life."

BACKWARD CHILDREN.

A LITTLE more than fifty years ago, the saying "once an idiot always an idiot" was held to be indisputably true, and little or nothing was done for those children whose intellects were found to be faulty. In the year 1837, however, M. Seguin, in Paris, began seriously to study the pathology and the treatment of feeble-minded children; and, in the words of Esquirol, set himself "to remove the mark of the beast from the forehead of the idiot." About the same time Dr. Saegert, in Berlin, and Dr. Guggenbuhl, in Switzerland, commenced similar work; and the interest of physicians and philanthropists, all over the civilized world, was aroused to inquire into this great and deeply important matter. Ten years later an institution for training feeble-minded children was opened at Highgate: this in the course of a few years developed into two similar institutions, one at Earlswood, and the other in Colchester. Since then other such institutions have been started in different parts of the country, the most considerable being the Royal Albert Aslyum at Lancaster. There is one very important institution supported by the public rates—the Metropolitan District Schools for Imbeciles at Darenth, in Kent, accommodating 1,000 children. Similar rate-supported schools have been started at Leicester and Birmingham. It is to be hoped that before long every large town in the country will follow the example of London, Birmingham, and Leicester, for such a course is certain to reduce the number of paupers and criminals in the country.